Review meeting of Government officials by Shri K.C. Pant in J & K

344. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government's interlocutor on Jammu and Kashmir Mr. K.C. Pant recently held a review meeting of senior Government officials to take stock of the progress made on various issues raised by various groups during his visit to the State;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the three hours meeting; and

(c) the reaction of Government officials of different departments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Shri K.C. Pant, the Union Government's interlocutor on Jammu and Kashmir, had taken internal meetings on June 16 and July 7, 2001 with senior officials of on various issues raised during his visit to J and K from May 28 to June 2, 2001 which includes the problems of 1947 migrants from PoK, relief to the migrants of border villages, developmental issues like power shortage, promotion of exports, horticulture package, upgradation of industrial estates, revival of tourism, development of Leh and Kargil districts, etc. However, no formal meeting with senior officials of the Central Ministries/Departments/Government of J and K has been held.

(c) The question does not arise.

Deterioration in Law and Order in North-Eastern States after Cease-fire

345. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that law and order situation in the North-Eastern States has considerably deteriorated on account of the extension of the cease-fire with NSCN;

(b) whether the concerned State Governments were consulted before arriving at this decision;

(c) what steps are being taken to contain the situation in these States; and

(d) what is the total number of casuailties and loss of property due to the unprecedented violence across various areas of these North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) There was a sharp reaction in Manipur against the extension of cease-fire with NSCN (IM) without territorial limits. State assembly building and houses of some political leaders were set on fire. Reports about protest rallies/dharnas from Assam, Arunachal and Meghalaya have been received.

(b) Yes Sir. Two formal rounds of talks were held with the Chief Ministers of the concerned States, on 28th September, 2000 and 2nd March, 2001.

(c) The Central Government is concerned about the situation in the North East and it has been decided that the cease-fire agreement including the words "without territorial limits" would be reviewed. The Prime Minister has assured that the territorial integrity of North Eastern States shall be maintained. The Prime Minister will be taking a meeting with Chief Ministers of North Eastern States on 27th July, 2001.

(d) According to the available information, 14 people lost their lives in the police action during the agitation in Manipur in protest against the extension of cease-fire agreement with NSCN (IM). One woman also died in the melee.

The agitators, during their violent protest against the extension of cease-fire area to Manipur, set on fire the Assembly building and houses of several political leaders. The Speaker and 3 other MLAs were injured during the attempt by the arsonists to set the Assembly building on fire. Offices of BJP and Samata Party (MPP) and Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP) were partially damaged by

arson. The District Planning Office and 4 vehicles were also burnt down.

No such incidents were reported from any other North Eastern States.

Strengthening of BSF at International Borders

346. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the killing of 16 BSF men just outside India's borders, the BSF have decided to strengthen the Border Security Force all over the country on all borders connected with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan;

(b) if so, what are the total BSF personnel now operating in these areas;

(c) what are the stringent measures taken to strengthen the forces there and also to avoid such type of happenings in future on all our borders; and

(d) whether the Ministry has asked the BSF to provide details to it every month of its position on these borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The Government have decided to augment the Central Paramilitary Forces including the Border Security Force (BSF), in a phased manner over a period of 5 years. With such augmentation, the deployment of BSF shall be strengthened on respective borders and the force shall not be, normally, diverted for internal security duties. BSF is not deployed on the borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to indicate the details of deployment of the BSF on the borders.

(c) BSF have taken various steps to intensify border vigilance, so that such incident does not recur.

(d) The monitoring and review of situation on borders is a regular Process.